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CarMD Finds Check Engine Car Repair Costs Lowest in Maine, Highest in Connecticut in 2021

IRVINE, Calif. (Aug. 31, 2022) – CarMD.com Corporation today released its annual state ranking of check engine light-related car repair costs, which finds vehicle owners in Connecticut paid the most (\$418) and Maine the least (\$349) for repairs during calendar year 2021.

Rounding out the five most affordable states for car repair after Maine were Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Wisconsin – all located in the Midwest. After Connecticut, the states/districts needing the most expensive car repairs were Colorado, California, District of Columbia and Georgia. The most frequently diagnosed repair in all five of the states with the highest average repair costs was “replace catalytic converter.” Costly parts that contain precious metals, catalytic converters do not typically fail unless maintenance and other repairs such as a faulty oxygen sensor or ignition coil are ignored, or a vehicle has high mileage.

“Several factors contribute to a state’s average repair costs, including vehicle year, make and model, the repair difficulty and associated parts cost,” said David Rich, technical director, CarMD. “It makes sense that as people hold onto their vehicles longer than ever before, cars and trucks start to outlast their parts and need more costly repairs. Staying current on maintenance can help vehicle owners reduce surprise car repair bills, while fixing check engine light problems quickly can improve fuel economy and reduce the likelihood of additional repairs down the road.”

[CarMD Garage](#) is a free online resource that drivers can use to check for upcoming maintenance, technical service bulletins and common check engine problems by year, make, model and mileage.

CarMD.com Corporation publishes this annual state-by-state ranking as part of its [CarMD® Vehicle Health Index™](#) to bring awareness about the importance of check engine light health. To view the 2022 CarMD state ranking of car repair costs for data collected in calendar year 2021, visit <https://www.carmd.com/wp/vehicle-health-index-introduction/2022-carmd-state-index/>.

CarMD’s ranking of the five states/districts with the highest car repair costs in 2021:

1. Connecticut, \$418.37
2. Colorado, \$417.14
3. California, \$415.66
4. District of Columbia, \$411.00
5. Georgia, \$407.71

CarMD’s ranking of the five states with the lowest car repair costs in 2021:

47. Wisconsin, \$361.11
48. Iowa, \$359.96
49. Michigan, \$356.29
50. Ohio, \$353.76
51. Maine, \$349.25

Labor Costs: For the sixth consecutive year, Vermont had the lowest average labor cost (\$127.15) for check engine-light related repairs. This is not surprising since the most common reason for the check engine light on Vermont vehicles is an affordable fix to tighten or replace a loose or missing gas cap, which reflects on the average repair cost. For the fourth year in a row, drivers in Mississippi paid the most on average for labor (\$151.67), where the most common repair was to replace ignition coils and spark plugs. The type of repair, how long the repair will take, what the shop charges per hour, and whether you opt to do it yourself or have it repaired by a professional automotive technician, all factor into average labor costs for a car repair.

Parts Costs: With supply chain issues impacting new vehicle availability and average vehicle age reaching an all-time high, parts costs have increased with higher-ticket repairs needed as cars outlast their parts. Not surprisingly, drivers in Michigan, home to “Motor City,” paid the least on average for car parts (\$211.26), but this is up nearly 5% from a year ago. This past year, drivers in Connecticut paid the most on average for parts (\$281.53). The type of vehicle, type of repair and whether original equipment (OE) parts are used factor into average parts cost.

CarMD’s state ranking of repair costs was derived from analysis of more than 17 million repairs identified for model year 1996 to 2022 vehicles whose drivers sought guidance for a check engine light issue from Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021. All 50 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, are represented in this Index. The repairs are related to a vehicle’s on-board diagnostic (OBD2) system, which is standard on all cars, light trucks, minivans, SUVs and hybrids manufactured since 1996. It monitors emissions-related systems within a vehicle, triggering the check engine light when a problem occurs. CarMD does not report on problems that are outside the scope of a vehicle’s OBD2 computer monitoring such as tires, and mechanical parts like belts and hoses.

About CarMD

Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., CarMD.com Corporation specializes in automotive technology services that leverage and empower the capabilities of the on-board diagnostics (OBD2) port. CarMD has worked with a network of ASE-certified technicians to build and validate the most comprehensive database of OBD2-related expert repairs and associated costs from which CarMD draws its Vehicle Health Index™. This Index is released each summer to provide vehicle owners and the industry with a state-by-state analysis of car repair trends and costs. For more information, visit www.carmd.com.

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(Below is a complete ranking of U.S. states/districts in order of most to least expensive car repair costs in 2021)

State-by-State Ranking of Average Check Engine Light-Related Car Repairs – 2021
Source: CarMD.com Corp.

Rank	State	Avg. Labor Cost	Avg. Parts Cost	Avg. Repair Cost (Parts & Labor)	Change in Rank from 2020
1	Connecticut	\$136.84	\$281.53	\$418.37	up from no. 2
2	Colorado	\$148.66	\$268.48	\$417.14	up from no. 3
3	California	\$144.56	\$271.10	\$415.66	down from no. 1
4	District of Columbia	\$141.00	\$270.00	\$411.00	no change
5	Georgia	\$145.34	\$262.37	\$407.71	up from no. 6
6	North Carolina	\$144.65	\$257.96	\$402.61	up from no. 11
7	Utah	\$142.93	\$258.72	\$401.65	down from no. 5
8	Virginia	\$143.25	\$257.92	\$401.17	up from no. 10
9	New Jersey	\$138.50	\$261.11	\$399.61	down from no. 7
10	Alabama	\$149.58	\$249.75	\$399.33	up from no. 12
11	Tennessee	\$146.80	\$252.31	\$399.11	down from no. 9
12	Maryland	\$141.30	\$257.77	\$399.07	up from no. 17
13	Nevada	\$138.58	\$259.68	\$398.26	up from no. 40
14	Wyoming	\$151.18	\$246.61	\$397.79	up from no. 21
15	Texas	\$145.86	\$251.67	\$397.53	down from no. 14
16	Florida	\$142.74	\$253.55	\$396.29	up from no. 24
17	South Carolina	\$146.75	\$249.08	\$395.83	up from no. 19
18	Mississippi	\$151.67	\$242.36	\$394.03	down from no. 15
19	Oregon	\$139.62	\$254.32	\$393.94	down from no. 16
20	New Mexico	\$145.82	\$246.71	\$392.53	down from no. 18
21	Washington	\$142.59	\$249.87	\$392.46	down from no. 13
22	Delaware	\$142.15	\$248.74	\$390.89	up from no. 25
23	Montana	\$147.28	\$242.56	\$389.84	down from no. 8
24	Idaho	\$143.84	\$245.21	\$389.05	up from no. 26
25	Arizona	\$138.78	\$250.14	\$388.92	down from no. 23
26	Louisiana	\$149.34	\$239.32	\$388.66	down from no. 20
27	Alaska	\$148.66	\$238.39	\$387.05	up from no. 37
28	Rhode Island	\$131.61	\$255.32	\$386.93	up from no. 30
29	New York	\$135.19	\$251.36	\$386.55	up from no. 36
30	Massachusetts	\$132.83	\$253.37	\$386.20	down from no. 27
31	Kentucky	\$146.21	\$238.55	\$384.76	down from no. 22
32	Pennsylvania	\$139.66	\$244.67	\$384.33	down from no. 29
33	West Virginia	\$143.25	\$240.23	\$383.48	down from no. 32
34	Arkansas	\$148.10	\$234.51	\$382.61	down from no. 31
35	Hawaii	\$136.74	\$244.49	\$381.23	up from no. 45
36	Oklahoma	\$147.81	\$231.96	\$379.77	down from no. 28
37	Illinois	\$140.89	\$238.34	\$379.23	up from no. 38
38	Missouri	\$146.49	\$232.36	\$378.85	down from no. 34
39	Minnesota	\$146.02	\$231.66	\$377.68	up from no. 42
40	South Dakota	\$147.27	\$230.37	\$377.64	down from no. 33
41	Nebraska	\$147.41	\$227.12	\$374.53	down from no. 35
42	Vermont	\$127.15	\$247.30	\$374.45	up from no. 44
43	Kansas	\$146.87	\$227.57	\$374.44	down from no. 39
44	New Hampshire	\$131.38	\$239.41	\$370.79	up from no. 43
45	Indiana	\$143.46	\$221.30	\$364.76	up from no. 47
46	North Dakota	\$145.66	\$218.96	\$364.62	down from no. 41
47	Wisconsin	\$138.95	\$222.16	\$361.11	up from no. 49
48	Iowa	\$145.96	\$214.00	\$359.96	down from no. 46
49	Michigan	\$145.03	\$211.26	\$356.29	down from no. 48
50	Ohio	\$136.07	\$217.69	\$353.76	up from no. 51
51	Maine	\$135.35	\$213.90	\$349.25	down from no. 50



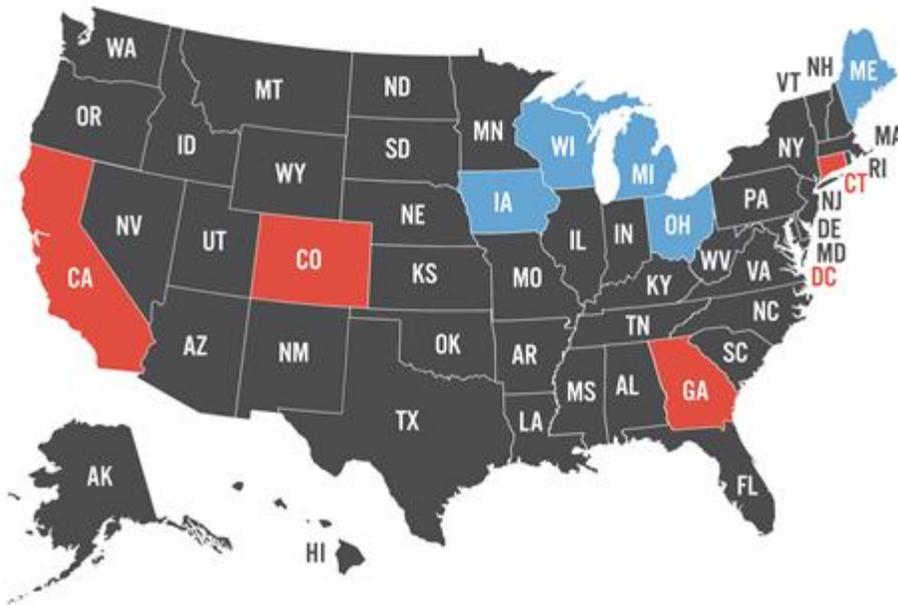
2022 CarMD® Vehicle Health Index™

States with **Highest** / **Lowest** Average Check Engine Light-Related Car Repair Costs in 2021

LOWEST AVERAGE REPAIR COSTS



HIGHEST AVERAGE REPAIR COSTS



 \$349 Drivers Paid the LEAST on Average in MAINE For Check Engine Car Repairs in 2021	 \$418 Drivers Paid the MOST on Average in CONNECTICUT For Check Engine Car Repairs in 2021
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